

**What is claimed is:**

- 1 1. An ear warmer, comprising:
  - 2 a cover having an outer member and an inner member, the outer member and the
  - 3 inner member defining an interior region therebetween;
  - 4 a frame, at least a portion of the frame being disposed in the interior region
  - 5 defined by the outer member and the inner member; and
  - 6 a membrane coupled to the cover, the membrane and the inner member of the
  - 7 cover forming a receptacle configured to receive at least a portion of an ear of a user.
- 1 2. The ear warmer of claim 1, wherein the membrane has a movable portion and a fixed portion, the membrane has a deployed configuration and a retracted configuration, the movable portion of the membrane being disposed adjacent the inner member when the membrane is in its deployed configuration, at least a portion of the movable portion of the membrane being disposed adjacent the outer member when the membrane is in its retracted configuration.
- 1 3. The ear warmer of claim 1, wherein the cover has a first ear portion, a second ear portion, and a middle portion extending between the first ear portion and the second ear portion, and the membrane is coupled to a portion of one of the first ear portion and the second ear portion.

1 4. The ear warmer of claim 1, wherein the cover has an ear portion, the ear portion of the  
2 cover has a perimeter, the membrane is coupled to the ear portion along a portion of the  
3 perimeter of the ear portion, the portion of the perimeter is less than the entire perimeter  
4 of the ear portion.

1 5. The ear warmer of claim 1, wherein the frame is configured to extend around a back of a  
2 head of the user.

1 6. The ear warmer of claim 1, the membrane is a first membrane, the receptacle is a first  
2 receptacle, the ear warmer further comprising:  
3 a second membrane coupled to the cover, the second membrane and the inner  
4 member of the cover forming a second receptacle configured to receive at least a portion  
5 of another ear of the user.

1 7. The ear warmer of claim 1, wherein the membrane is coupled to the outer member of the  
2 cover.

1 8. The ear warmer of claim 1, wherein the membrane is coupled to the inner member of the  
2 cover.

1 9. The ear warmer of claim 1, wherein a portion of the membrane is disposed between the  
2 inner member of the cover and the outer member of the cover.

1 10. The ear warmer of claim 1, wherein the frame and the membrane are configured to  
2 collectively secure the ear warmer to a head of the user.

1 11. An ear warmer, comprising:  
2 a frame having a first ear portion, a second ear portion, and a band extending  
3 between the first ear portion and the second ear portion;  
4 a cover member coupled to the frame such that at least a portion of the first ear  
5 portion is covered by the cover member; and  
6 a membrane coupled to at least one of the cover member and the frame, the  
7 membrane and the cover member forming a receptacle configured to receive at least a  
8 portion of an ear of a user.

1 12. The ear warmer of claim 11, wherein the membrane has a movable portion and a fixed  
2 portion, the membrane has a deployed configuration and a retracted configuration, the  
3 cover member having an inner surface and an outer surface opposite the inner surface, the  
4 movable portion of the membrane is disposed adjacent the inner surface of the cover  
5 member when the membrane is in its deployed configuration, the movable portion of the  
6 membrane is disposed adjacent the outer surface of the cover member when the  
7 membrane is in its retracted configuration, the fixed portion of the membrane being  
8 fixedly coupled to the at least one of the cover member and the frame.

1 13. The ear warmer of claim 11, wherein the first ear portion has a first side and a second  
2 side, and the cover member is configured to cover a portion of the first side of the first  
3 ear portion less than an entirety of the first side of the first ear portion.

1 14. The ear warmer of claim 11, the cover member being a first cover member, the  
2 membrane being a first membrane, the receptacle being a first receptacle, the ear warmer  
3 further comprising:

4 a second cover member configured to cover at least a portion of the second ear  
5 portion; and

6 a second membrane coupled to at least one of the second cover member and the  
7 frame, the second membrane and the second cover member forming a second receptacle  
8 configured to receive at least a portion of another ear of the user.

1 15. The ear warmer of claim 11, wherein the frame is configured to extend around a back of a  
2 head of the user.

1 16. The ear warmer of claim 11, wherein a compression force applied by the frame and a  
2 friction force by the membrane collectively are configured to substantially secure the ear  
3 warmer to a head of the user.

1 17. The ear warmer of claim 11, wherein the cover member includes a first membrane  
2 portion and a second membrane portion, the first ear portion including an inner side and  
3 an outer side, the first membrane portion being disposed proximate to the inner side of  
4 the first ear portion and the second membrane portion being disposed proximate to the  
5 outer side of the second ear portion, the membrane having a first position and a second  
6 position, the distal end of the membrane being proximate to the first membrane portion in  
7 its first position and proximate to the second membrane portion in its second position.

1 18. The ear warmer of claim 17, wherein the first membrane portion has a perimeter portion,  
2 the second membrane portion has its own perimeter portion, the first membrane portion  
3 being coupled to the second membrane portion along a portion of their perimeter  
4 portions, the membrane being coupled along a portion of the perimeter of the first  
5 membrane portion.

1 19. The ear warmer of claim 18, wherein the first membrane portion, the second membrane  
2 portion and the membrane are coupled together using a binding.

1 20. The ear warmer of claim 11, wherein the frame has a deployed configuration and a  
2 collapsed configuration, the membrane being configured to be disposed in a first position  
3 and in a second position, the membrane being selectively disposable in one of the first  
4 position and the second position when the frame is in its deployed configuration.

1 21. The ear warmer of claim 20, wherein the first ear portion has an inner side and an outer  
2 side, the distal end of the membrane is configured to be disposed proximate to the outer  
3 side of the first ear portion in its first position and the membrane is configured to be  
4 disposed proximate to the inner side of the first ear portion in its second position.

1 22. An ear warmer, comprising:  
2 a frame;  
3 a cover having an inner member and an outer member, the cover covering a  
4 portion of the frame less than the entirety of the frame, the cover including a perimeter;  
5 and  
6 a membrane coupled along a portion of the perimeter of the cover, the membrane  
7 having a first configuration and a second configuration, a portion of the membrane being  
8 disposed adjacent the inner member of the cover when the membrane is in its first  
9 configuration, the portion of the membrane being disposed adjacent the outer member of  
10 the cover when the membrane is in its second configuration.

1 23. The ear warmer of claim 22, wherein the membrane and the inner member of the cover  
2 forming a receptacle when the membrane is in its first configuration, the receptacle being  
3 configured to receive at least a portion of an ear of a user when the membrane is in its  
4 first configuration.

1 24. The ear warmer of claim 22, wherein the frame is configured to extend around a back of a  
2 head of a user.

1 25. The ear warmer of claim 22, wherein a portion of the inner member, a portion of the  
2 outer member and a portion of the membrane are coupled together proximate to the  
3 perimeter.

1 26. The ear warmer of claim 25, wherein the inner member has an ear portion with a  
2 perimeter, and the membrane has an edge portion, the edge portion of the membrane  
3 being coupled to the ear portion of the inner member proximate the perimeter of the ear  
4 portion.

1 27. An ear warmer, comprising:  
2 a frame:  
3 a cover having an inner side and an outer side, the cover covering a portion of the  
4 frame less than the entirety of the frame, the cover including a perimeter; and  
5 a membrane coupled along a portion of the perimeter of the cover, the membrane  
6 having a first configuration and a second configuration, a portion of the membrane being  
7 disposed adjacent the inner side of the cover when the membrane is in its first  
8 configuration, the portion of the membrane being disposed adjacent the outer side of the  
9 cover when the membrane is in its second configuration.



- 1 31. The method of claim 30, the method further comprising:
  - 2 moving a portion of the membrane from a first position on one side of the cover to
  - 3 a second position on another side of the cover such that the membrane and the cover form
  - 4 the receptacle therebetween.
- 1 32. The method of claim 31, wherein the moving occurs prior to the placing the ear warmer
- 2 on the user's head.
- 1 33. The method of claim 31, the membrane being a first membrane, the ear warmer having a
- 2 second membrane, the method comprising:
  - 3 moving a portion of the second membrane of the ear warmer from a first position
  - 4 on one side of the cover to a second position on another side of the cover such that the
  - 5 second membrane and the cover form a receptacle therebetween; and
  - 6 inserting at least a portion of another ear of the user into the receptacle formed by
  - the second membrane and the cover.